

November 10, 2009

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on November 10, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Callen*, Cardella, Craft**, Kraemer, Thomas
Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioner Draper

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand
Commissioner Callen* (arrived at 9:32 a.m.)
Commissioner Craft** (arrived at 9:40 a.m.)

FLAG SALUTE

Bea Virobik, from Focal Point on Aging, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cardella provided the following inspiration:

*Listen to the music of the past
So we can sing in the present
Dance to the future*

Dr. Alan Wolfelt

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Thomas seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of November 10, 2009. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Callen* and Craft**)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Callen moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of October 13, 2009. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Craft**)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Bea Virobik, from Focal Point on Aging
Jim Mills, Torrance Transit Administrative Manager
Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Karen Fitch

PRESENTATION: UPDATE ON SENIOR TAXI PROGRAM

Jim Mills, Transit Administrative Manager, distributed a recap of the 2008-2009, (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) Senior and Disabled Taxi Program and stated that there were 4,360 participants enrolled in the programs and the total number of passengers served was 76,865. He presented the breakdown for the total number of seniors and disabled passengers and the percentages for each fare category. He stated that the total program expenditure was \$1,005,885 (\$642,012 senior and \$363,864 disabled).

Mr. Mills stated that complaints per month averaged less than 5 per taxi company for a rate of less than 1% of all trips provided and that any taxi company that had over 5 complaints in a one month period would be fined \$250 per incident. He stated that all complaints are fully investigated.

Responding to a question from Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Mr. Mills stated that there is a phone number that Torrance Memorial staff can call to register complaints if the taxis fail to show to pick up passengers.

Mr. Mills stated that the Transit Department would create a list of frequently asked questions on the taxi program as part of a welcome brochure and would email the list when completed, to the Commission on Aging.

Responding to a question from Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand, Mr. Mills stated that it was very important that riders report any problems with the taxi companies, so that the problems can be addressed and corrected.

Mr. Mills stated that the senior rate on the Public Transportation system remains at \$0.25 and that there are trained Senior Ambassadors who were able to introduce seniors to the various routes and services offered by the Torrance bus system. He stated that the transit system will be conducting focus groups to gather information, suggestions and concerns.

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Kraemer stated that an appointment to the ethics committee would be made at City Council on November 10, 2009. She announced that the Madrona Marsh would hold an Art Show Fundraiser at the Torrance Marriot on November 14 and the next Ad-Hoc Committee on Commission Structure would meet on November 16.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City would be installing new LED lighting at West High School.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there would be an increase in trash service of \$5.86, effective on January 12, 2010, unless homeowners protested the increase.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that retiring police officer, Dave Crespino, would be honored at the City Council meeting on November 10.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Draft Environmental General Plan would be on the City Council agenda on November 10.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that there would be an item on the City Council agenda on November 10 for an Environmental site assessment for the proposed property for the transit center.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that flu shots will be administered on December 7, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. at Wilson Park using a point of distribution exercise, and that docents would be qualifying people to receive the shots.

D. Transportation

None

E. Cable

None

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Cardella reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

October 2009

Total number of documented calls: 44 Total number of callbacks: 19

Miscellaneous calls: 91 Total number of walk-ins: 29

Total number of calls received: 135

Of the documented calls:

20.4% were in regard to Housing 14% were for in home services

14% were for Legal

Commissioner Cardella also reported that Focal Point participated in two health fairs and did two Focal Point presentations in the community.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there was a Police fraud alert for an official looking mailing that promised to reduce your property tax assessment for a fee.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that she had received an email from Ted Lieu, State Assemblyman, who had authored a bill that will become effective January 1, 2010, making it illegal for anyone to mail out misleading letters offering to lower property tax assessments.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there will be a mandatory Ethics training on November 30, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Commissioner Cardella announced that the Torrance Memorial Holiday Festival would be held from December 1 through December 6 and that the festival will be free to seniors on December 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced the naming of the Sport Center at Wilson Park would be on November 13, 2009.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Senior Citizens Holiday Arts and Crafts Sale would be on November 21 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center and that the 2010 Census group would have a booth at the event.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reminded the Commissioners that the Commission would be dark in December. Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, distributed handouts for Health Links and Advantage Newsletter and announced upcoming lectures for November and December. She stated that Torrance Memorial Medical Center had instituted an influenza visitation policy.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that Los Angeles County was offering a Senior Emergency Preparedness Forum on November 24 at the California Endowment Center on Alameda Street in Los Angeles.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that December 4 would be the next registration date for the Torrance Travelers tour program.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reminded the Commissioners that the mandatory ethics training was on November 30 and if they were unable to attend the meeting, the training was available online.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

| |
|---|
| Approved as Submitted January 12, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
|---|